**1.Based on the information provided in the websites what Internet safety rules would you teach upper elementary and middle school students? Consider issues of privacy, safety from predators, inappropriate content, and digital etiquette.**

I would keep my rules fairly general and easy to remember: (1) Protect your personal information by not sharing it with anyone online unless instructed to do so by a teacher or parent. (2) If you come across anything that makes you uncomfortable, report it immediately and you won’t get into trouble. (3) Be respectful to everyone you interact with online, treat them as if you are face-to face, (4) never agree to meet with anyone you’ve “met” online. Though simple, I feel these four rules, if followed, will lead to a safe and productive internet experience.

**2. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach older students about social networking? Consider issues of privacy, inappropriate content, safety, and digital etiquette.**

I would have them follow the same rules above, with one exception. These older students are engaging in social networking, and so will obviously be sharing some personal information. Therefore I will encourage them to remember that: (1) Anything posted online must be considered public (nothing embarrassing or inappropriate), (2) anything posted online should be considered permanent, and, most importantly, (3) just because you know someone through a social networking site, that does not mean you actually know the person. Again, I think if you have too many rules it just becomes confusing, and so it is best to emphasize the major themes instead.

**3. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about cyber bullying? Include the definition of cyber bullying, how to prevent bullying, and what the victim should do.**

Cyber bullying is basically bullying that occurs through any form of technology. I would tell students who encounter this to: (1) inform me and/or a parent immediately, (2) do not retaliate (which both validates the bully’s behavior and potentially escalates the situation), (3) block the bully from you accounts (email…etc.), remain vigilant about keeping their personal information private, and to simply disengage from whatever environment the bullying is happening in. If a bully is harassing you in a chat-room, just leave.

**4. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach older students about sexting? Consider the definition of sexting, possible consequences for the person who sends sexual messages, and how to report sexually inappropriate content**.

I would be very clear that using technology to transmit any sexually explicit material is not allowed. Our reading on this subject explained very clearly that, “It’s illegal: Don’t take or send nude or sexually suggestive photos of yourself or anyone else. If you do, even if they’re of you or you pass along someone else’s – you could be charged with producing or distributing or possession child pornography.” Even worse, if this material was eventually to travel across state lines the crime becomes a felony. Beyond these obvious legal ramifications, I would discuss the potential emotional and reputational damage that can result. The bottom line is that some things in the world just need to be completely avoided, and I would try my best to convince my students that sexting belongs on the list. As mentioned above, I would also make clear that immediately reporting of inappropriate material will not result in any punishment (you don’t want kids scared to tell you).

**5. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about cyber security? Consider the dangers from hackers, viruses, and spyware and precautions students can take to avoid these dangers.**

In terms of avoiding general cyber-security threats, I would again stick to simple basics that are easy to follow. Never download anything from an unknown source (even email). Never respond to an unsolicited request for personal information. Never provide sensitive information (SSC or bank info) without first consulting an adult. When in doubt, or if you feel uncomfortable, ask a parent or teacher. I firmly believe if you try to list to many specific dangers your students may be so preoccupied with the list that they fail to use common sense (and the threats are constantly evolving so any list becomes dated very quickly.